THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the accident which occurred on 4th June, 1986, the pilot experienced control problems during a routine training flight. The aircraft, thereafter could not be controlled and the pilot ejected.

Three IAF aircraft crashed in Western Sector in the third week of June, 1986. In the first accident, which occurred on 17th June, 1986, the aircraft crashed during a low level training flight, while executing a hard turn to the right. The pilot was killed in the accident. In the second accident which occurred on the same day, the pilot was unable to climb or maintain height after take off. Consequently, he ejected and the aircraft crashed. In the third accident, which occurred on 18th June, 1986, the aircraft sustained a bird hit shortly after take off resulting in engine flame out. The pilot ejected safely.

Courts of Inquiry have been ordered to investigate into these four accidents, and their findings are awaited.

Radiation leakage from Atomic Power Plants

4. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of incidents of radiation leakage in the Atomic Power Plants in the country so far, plant-wise, stating the number of worker, if any, who have suffered physical damage as a result thereof and the extent of environmental radiation;

(b) whether Government are aware that in view of the potential hazards of nuclear power plants and the recent Chernobyl disaster in the USSR, many advanced European countries have banned the construction of nuclear power plants and many States in the US have banned the commissioning of the already constructed atomic power plants; and

(c) whether considering the fact that the potential hazards of radiation are invisible, irreversible and unquantifiable, Government have reassessed the whole question of power generation by the fission process; if so, what are the details thereof; stating how the atomic power plants in the country are considered be safer than other plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There has been no incident in which workers have suffered physical damage or were exposed to radiation beyond the limits recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

(b) Most advanced countries have, at the Government level, re-affirmed their commitment to nuclear power even after the Chernobyl accident. However, it is reported that in one or two countries, as a result of public demand some nuclear projects have been deferred.

(c) The health efforts of radiation exposures are not unique. The effects that can be attributed to low levels of radiation exposure are also caused by a large number of other environmental agents. Effects of radiation exposure to low level radiation are very small compared to risks of similar effects from other known and unknown environmental agents. In fact, studies on health effects of alternative forms of power generation have revealed nuclear energy to be a comparatively safe and clear method of producing power.

Impact of Radioactive Plume from Chernobyl on India

5. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a radioactive plume originating from the Chernobyl Power Plant in the Soviet Union hit the country sometime in the second week of May, 1986 and its impact was recorded at the Atomic Power Stations at Tarapur, Rawatbhata in Rajasthan and Kalpakkam in Madras till the third week of May, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the impact of radiation pressure, and what measures have been taken by Government to check its adverse effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The radioactive fall out originating from the Chernobyl Power Plant accident reached India around May 13, 1986. The radioactivity was detected at all the atomic power stations as well as at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay and a number of other stations in the country. However, the levels of radioactivity were too small to warrant any special measures.

Working of the Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.

6. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working of the Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. has been unsatisfactory and that while its turn-over has shown an increase the profits have been declining during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details regarding its installed capacity and its utilisation for the last three years, year-wise, and unit-wise, the production and sale of its products, the profits earned by it, and if there has been a decline in the profits what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve the performance of the Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) As would be seen from the statement given below the profit earned by the company was higher in 1983-84 when compared to that in 1982-83; it came down in 1984-85 only:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Sales turnover	Profit (Before tax)
1982-83	3032.20	204·73
1983-84	3335.94	223.29
1984-85	3372·94	139·14

Statement giving installed capacity, production, capacity utilisation, sales and profit, unit-wise and year-wise during the three years is annexed. [See Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 4]

The Main factors which adversely affected the profitability of the bread, beverage and edible oil units during 1984-85 are as follows:—

(i) increase in the production cost on account of increase in expenditure on (a) salaries, allowances and bonus and (b) power and fuel. In the case of bread and concentrate for aerated beverages, lower porduction also contributd to increase in production cost. Lower production in the case of bread was mainly due to a significant decline in demand from nutrition feeding programmes.

(ii) the product prices did not go up. In fact, in the case of bread unit at Delhi, Calcutta, Kanpur and Madras, the bread prices were reduced. In the case of edible oil also, there was a decline in the prices of refined soya oil and deoiled cake.

These factors also explain the decline in overall profitability during 1984-85.

(c) In order to improve profitability the company has been advised *inter alia*.

(i) to undertake a critical review of the units which are not doing well and based on that, devise appropriate remedial measures;

(ii) to reduce dependence on sale of bread for nutrition feeding programmes and to initiate appropriate marketing measures to push up commercial sales; and

(iii) to ensure that available manpower is effectively deployed and that there is no surplus man-power with any individual unit.